



EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 600 River Street, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Juan Oyervides, Chair
David Carroll, Co-Chair
Veronica Forsyth, Member
Cassie Smith, Member – Arrived at 5:33pm
Blanca Valencia, Member – Left at 8:12pm
Anna Maciel, Member – Arrived at 5:45pm
Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, Member – Arrived at 5:33pm

Board Members Absent: 0

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Esparza, HAND Manager
Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager
Kelly Grajeda, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order: Chair Oyervides called the Board Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on 4/2/14 by Member Valencia with a second from Member Forsyth. The motion passed unanimously. (4.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Valencia and Forsyth. Members Sanchez-Ruiz, Maciel, and Smith arrived after the motion.

3. Citizen Communication:

- a. Jane Rivera spoke in favor of Items 5, 6, and 7. She also spoke in opposition of combining the MACC Board with the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission.
- b. Gilbert Rivera also spoke in opposition to the Board merger, stating he found it insulting that the taskforce presumed the Mexican community does not communicate within itself. He supports Item 10 and also said the MACC Board could not be a subcommittee of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission.

4. Presentations:

- a. Lyn Estabrook was not in attendance to present.

BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

5. Request and recommendation to Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Board, and Austin City Council of proposed relocation of a Rainey Street home currently available to city parkland at the southwest corner of Cummings Street and East Avenue for the future home of the Rainey Street History Center. (Carroll, Oyervides)

- a. Co-Chair Carroll found a new location for the Rainey Street house at the southwest corner of Cummings Street and East Avenue that is currently parkland.
- b. Member Smith asked if the amount of land that would accompany the house is known. Chair Oyervides responded that they are not in that stage yet. Member Sanchez-Ruiz stated that she

would still like a future clay and pottery studio. Chair Oyervides also said that PARD is planning to install a new playscape for the same area, which the Department thinks is compatible with the plan for the Rainey Street house.

- 6. Recommendation to Austin City Council of using the remaining balance of \$100,000 in the Rainey Street Historic District Fund for stabilization of the Rainey Street house for the future Rainey Street History Center at the proposed parkland site at the southwest intersection of Cummings Street and East Avenue. (Carroll, Oyervides)**
 - a. Chair Oyervides stated that the Rainey Street Historic District Fund has reserved and approved \$100k for this budget cycle to relocate and stabilize the house at the end of the year.
 - b. Co-Chair Carroll made a friendly amendment to Item 6 to request that PARD evaluate the proposed location to relocate the Rainey Street house to the corner of Cummings Street and East Avenue.
- 7. Recommendation to Austin City Council of assigning management of the future Rainey Street History Center to the local history and archives division of the Austin Public Library – the Austin History Center. (Oyervides, Sanchez-Ruiz)**
 - a. Chair Oyervides stated that if the house is relocated and stabilized, management should be turned over to the Austin History Center to add prestige to the Rainey Street History Center.
 - b. Member Smith mentioned that the open position at the AHC has been changed to one of archival work rather than outreach. Chair Oyervides responded that it may be too soon in the process for that discussion. He added that CM Martinez has expressed support for a Rainey Street History Center and has referred to a walking tour of the district.
 - c. Co-Chair Carroll motioned to approve Items 5, 6 (as amended), and 7 with a second from Member Valencia. The motion passed unanimously. (7.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Valencia, Forsyth, Smith, Sanchez-Ruiz, and Maciel.
- 8. Recommendation to Austin City Council of rejecting any proposed board merger(s) of the Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board with any other city board or commission, including the Hispanic/Latino Resource Advisory Commission (HLQLRAC), as the City of Austin moves forward to a 10-1 form of city government. (Maciel, Oyervides)**
 - a. Chair Oyervides stated that he was in attendance at the taskforce's meetings along with many members of the community to testify against any proposed merger of the MACC Advisory Board with the HLQLRAC. He said the HLQLRAC has a broad mission that includes much more than just the cultural arts, and despite the community's input, the taskforce decided to move forward with the proposal. He also read an e-mail from CM Martinez wherein he clearly expressed his opposition of any merger and emphasized the need to ensure the separate operations of each group.
 - b. Member Valencia spoke in opposition of the proposed merger. She said she feels communication between the two groups is essential, but combining the two would be a misrepresentation of the population of Austin. There is a way to practice efficacy without sacrificing the representation of the city.
 - c. Member Smith does not see how the merger would be practical to address all the needs of the ESB-MACC. Member Maciel stated that she has a problem with merging with the HLQLRAC because they've only had the opportunity to meet one or two times.
- 9. Recommendation of establishing a policy and process of providing oral informational reports as needed of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center to the HLQLRAC as a means of promoting interaction and communication between the two city boards.**
 - a. Co-Chair Carroll asked if the MACC board should consider recommending Option 2 proposed by the taskforce. Member Forsyth asked what kind of communication the taskforce

is recommending. Chair Oyervides responded that it is unknown at this time. Member Valencia stressed that it is essential that communication between the two groups happen on record.

- b. Chair Oyervides proposed to voluntarily provide monthly informational reports to the HLQLRAC. Co-Chair Carroll asked if the two groups could just provide each other with minutes of their meetings. Member Smith responded that the minutes are already public information. Chair Oyervides questioned the timing of receiving the minutes due to the existing posting schedule.
- c. Member Smith asked if a Working Group can exist between two Boards. Jane Rivera, Parks Board Chair, was in attendance and stated that one cannot combine working groups from two Boards.
- d. Laura Esparza noted that another possibility would be to send a MACC Board member to present through the HLQLRAC's Citizen's Communication. The Board felt that oral reports are the best option at the moment.

10. Recommendation to Austin City Manager's Office and the Parks and Recreation Department Director of indefinitely hosting the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission regularly scheduled every third Wednesday of the month at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

- a. Community Member Gilbert Rivera said that the meeting place for the two groups should be available to the community, and that the ESB-MACC is the perfect location.
- b. Chair Oyervides agreed with Rivera and stated that it is important for the HLQLRAC to be able to meet at the ESB-MACC. Herlinda Zamora noted that the Commission needed more space the last time they met at the Center, and Laura Esparza said staff would try to work with them to secure larger meeting spaces on-site.
- c. Member Sanchez-Ruiz motioned to approve Items 8, 9, and 10 with a second from Member Maciel. Motion passed unanimously. (7.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Valencia, Forsyth, Smith, Sanchez-Ruiz, and Maciel.

11. Update, Planning, marketing, and implementation of 2014 Annual Holiday Children's Art Exhibit. (Sanchez-Ruiz, Valencia)

- a. Member Sanchez-Ruiz updated the Board on a meeting she had with ESB-MACC staff and Kristen Marstaller, AISD Art Instruction Coordinator. The art teachers will select the artwork, and being part of the exhibition itself will be an award for the students.
- b. Herlinda Zamora stated that the theme will be culture and heritage, and the opening will be in the afternoon on December 13th. The invitations will be mailed out to participating students.
- c. Laura Esparza noted that Marstaller will meet with teachers in August to personally present the idea before the school year begins. Member Sanchez-Ruiz also noted that AISD Board Members should also be invited.
- d. Member Maciel suggested forwarding information to recreation centers to reach students who may not be in art classes.

12. Presentation of findings by the 64 Rainey Street Working Group. (Carroll, Maciel)

- a. Item postponed.

13. Working Group reports:

- a. 64 Rainey Street Working Group; Lead, David Carroll, will update the Board on meetings held regarding the 64 Rainey Street parcel.
 - i. Co-Chair Carroll reported that the group is finalizing their presentation for the 6/4/14 meeting.

- b. Identifying Alternative Funding Working Group; Lead, Juan Oyervides, will update the Board on meetings held regarding identification of alternative funding resources for the ESB-MACC future phases and programming and the City of Austin Rainey Street Historic District.
 - i. No report.
- c. ESB-MACC Marketing/Volunteers Working Group; Lead, Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, will update the Board on meetings held regarding improvement of marketing efforts and volunteers for the ESB-MACC.
 - i. No report.
- d. 64 Rainey Street and ESB-MACC Master Plan Working Group; Lead, Cassie Smith, will update the Board on meetings held regarding the incorporation of 64 Rainey Street into the ESB-MACC Master Plan.
 - i. Member Smith presented on behalf of the working group. She discussed creative place-making and how the pocket park can benefit the city and the rest of the ESB-MACC's stakeholders.
- e. Five Year Strategic Plan Working Group; Lead, Veronica Forsyth, will update the Board on meetings held regarding the development of an ESB-MACC strategic plan.
 - i. Member Forsyth stated that she appreciated the updated plan staff provided and proposed for the Board to take time to review and discuss it at the 6/4/14 meeting.
 - ii. Member Valencia left the meeting at 8:12pm.

14. Staff briefings:

- a. Herlinda Zamora briefed the Board on May events and announced that Ballet East Austin will apply for LARP. She also announced that all the agaves except for the tallest ones will be removed and replaced with gravel due to safety, maintenance, and event sound concerns. Zamora also announced that Nino Miranda, LARP Coordinator, was accepted to the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Leadership Institute.
- b. Laura Esparza notified the Board that she requested the City Attorney help write a Request for Council Action to use the parking revenue funds. She also stated that no CIP money has been spent recently – the overflow parking lot will be the first expenditure followed by the Award of Excellence installation. LARP received announcement of the National Endowment of the Arts' grant that will offer seven artists stipends to attend its Emerging Teaching Artist program. She also noted that Brian Walker is the employee in charge of roadside signage with the City. There is no northbound "ESB-MACC" sign, and the current signage is too small and hidden.

15. Adjournment: Chair Oyervides adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm with a motion from Member Sanchez-Ruiz and a second from Member Smith without objection (6.0). + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll and Members Smith, Sanchez-Ruiz, Forsyth, and Maciel.